

POINT THREE



The TocH magazine February 1976



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Editor : Sue McWilliam
Designer : Michael F Hill MSTD

Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911). Opinions expressed are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

Point Three is available from the Toc H Publications Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911). Single copies 10p; 10 or more copies sent to the same address 9p each. Annual subscription: £1.20 including postage.

Front cover: Mrs Mapplebeck and children of Carlow Street, Middlesbrough. They are running a street jumble sale for the Toc H Summer Shindig (see more on page 3!). Middlesbrough children have traditionally sold toys on their front doorstep to make pocket money; last summer they raised about £40 for the Shindig funds.



Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird-watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House: the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

VIEWPOINT

I am devoting this editorial to answering one important point which has been raised on the Letters pages — a viewpoint which is shared, I am sure, by many members, but which I would hate to let pass without qualification: ie that Toc H is 'non-political' and should remain so.

It is true that, at present, there are legal restraints on political activity by charitable bodies. Charity law is hopelessly muddled, illogical and out-of-date and there is widespread and respectable agreement that it needs changing — but we still have to live with it. I would, however, contend that to be really true to the Four Points of the Compass members cannot afford to ignore political issues.

It is a peculiar fact that somehow left-wing views are more political than right-wing — but I am not concerned with the colour of opinion here. Nor do I want to drag members unnecessarily onto a soap box to risk the Movement's reputation on empty slogans. For I realise that the heart of Toc H lies in small unrecognised acts of service and in the process of 'changing chaps, ourselves included'.

But this is not the whole story. We are expected to work 'for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God', and to my understanding, this must include searching for the needs of others and being prepared to work for changes in society so that those needs can be met: whether this means campaigning for more public education about mental health, for playing space for children, opposing some form of racial discrimination, or working for a more just distribution of income in this country and in the Third World.

It is from a concern for issues such as these that I would hope members would be prepared to enter that sphere of activity labelled politics (which can be defined as the process of managing the life of the State — which eventually means your life and mine).

Politics are not everyone's scene, but it would be good to see more people taking part in local community associa-

tions, environmental pressure groups, trade unions, health councils, or any local agency that stimulates communication, change or reform.

For I am sure that active Toc H members must have valuable insights which their experience in the Movement has taught them, and it is important to share these as widely as possible. The Director has challenged us to be more ambitious and it would be good to see the values of Toc H having a greater stake in influencing how this country should be run.

This, presumably, is what the Archbishops of Canterbury and York had in mind when they challenged us all to work out what kind of a society we want, and what personal changes are necessary to achieve it. They later went on to talk about jobs and incomes because they realise that structural change in society is also necessary.

There are two important riders to this argument. First, that Toc H, like the Church, should be multi-political not non-political. Toc H is Everyman's Club and its members will represent every shade of political opinion. So it is dangerous to use the name of Toc H to back one particular viewpoint; its task is to inspire men to make their own contribution.

The same principle applies to the magazine. Individual contributors express merely their own opinions and this is as true of the editor as anyone else. I would not dare claim that the editorial represents the views of the Movement. How could it, when it is meant to stimulate thinking on many different topics? topics?

The second rider is to stress again that Toc H as a body cannot engage freely in political activity.

I appeal for this interest in politics not to lead Toc H up some fashionable alley, but so that we do not get stuck in a backwater. Toc H needs to be a caring dynamic society that is prepared to make some impact on the community. S McW

Members accept a four-fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.

4. To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points — to think fairly.

You're in for a big surprise

Imagine a street of terraced houses in Middlesbrough . . . peer down and you find a crowd of people . . . What's going on? An accident or something? And of course all it is, is a lot of young mums and kids and about 60 teddy bears of all shapes and sizes . . . It's the Toc H Teddy Bears' Parade.

Brown bears, yellow bears, fat bears, thin bears; bears from two inches to six feet, some far bigger than their masters; one bear claiming the estimable age of 95 – he originally belonged to the child's mother's grandmother.

But what has this to do with Toc H? Well, it's all part of the Toc H Summer Shindig in Ayresome, Middlesbrough: a glorified five-week playscheme for adults and children alike. It is part of a fantastic, 'silly' plan to get everyone in the neighbourhood to join in some holiday games. But it's more than that . . . let one of the local Toc H members, Albert Sturgeon, explain:

'The Shindig happened last August, but the story goes back a lot further than that.

'There were three other Toc H members living near me, and we had the crazy situation of living in neighbouring streets but all belonging to different branches! So we started talking about Toc H, about what it really meant and how it started in small communities, and we agreed that the point of it all was *to get alongside people*. So we said, OK, even though we live in a large town, let's define our own small community and get to know the people in it, and let's really make friendship and neighbourliness mean something.

'So we drew what was really a natural boundary around 15 streets and we said that we would visit each of the 1,738 houses in that patch. We have now done this and we now know, for example, that there are about 230 elderly people around here, living alone.

'We distributed a leaflet to every house, saying that Toc H members were prepared to offer practical help and friendship to anyone who wanted it, and we advertised our homes by putting a sticker in our front windows: "Together we Offer Community Help".

So the Ayresome Neighbourhood Scheme was launched by just four Toc H mem-



You're in for a big surprise

Photos by Eric and Maretta Medcalf and Ann Corley



who were prepared to accept any request for help or information: whether about welfare benefits, rent rebates, education, pensions, drugs, queries on the gas bill, children's problems, marriage . . . or just how to fill in the forms. They are not experts, and did not claim to know the answers themselves, but they did promise to get hold of an answer or at least put the enquirer in touch with the right official at County Hall. They hoped to act as go-betweens, between the maze of officialdom and the person in need of help. And they guaranteed to get some sort of a response the same day — which shows how conscientious they are.

For some months with the help of staff member, Adrian Dudman, the group prepared themselves by collecting leaflets and information from the local authority, and inviting various professionals to come and talk to them (but never as 'a speaker'). The key-note was, and remains, friendliness and informality. It is all very simple really and it is all based on the desire to demonstrate friendship and concern.

Meeting in each other's houses, the members' families and friends soon become involved. Albert's wife, Nancy, had been doing things for Toc H for 15 years, but she had never gone to a women's branch. Now she has become a member, because if her house is the centre of Toc H activity, it is natural for her to join.

Gradually the group grew to about nine — but its supporters number 60, or more.

Right at the beginning, the group held an informal coffee evening for anyone in the area who wanted to come along and discuss the community's needs. They discovered that one big problem is loneliness, so now beetle drives, concerts and pie and peas suppers are arranged every six to eight weeks. But perhaps more important, people were becoming more sensitive to the small personal services which they could do for each other. There was, for example, an elderly lady, living alone, who had never been out of her house for three years, except for an ambulance trip to hospital, three times a week. Someone discovered that she had a stepsister who lived nearby, but who was herself too frail to go out. So now a car lift is arranged every week and the two sisters see each other regularly. And some of the neighbours have got to know them and pop in for a chat.

Then there was the man who was losing his sight and who didn't go about much any more. A social worker-for-the-blind, a Toc H member, was asked to call, and he showed him how to pour a beer by putting his thumb inside the rim of the glass . . . He is a different personality now, and even goes out for an evening.

The Neighbourhood Group was formed well over a year ago, in the winter of 1974. Last summer it was obvious that people needed some fun in the holidays, so Albert and crew decided to hold a summer shindig. Not that they knew quite what a shindig was, nor what they were letting themselves in for. But they



did know that they wanted to involve *everyone*, mums and dads as well as kids, and that they would base it around activities that kids like, because then they would be sure of a good laugh.

And so it happened that for five weeks last August, if you had wandered into the streets of Ayresome, Middlesbrough, you would have found the world gone mad with a teddy bears' picnic, a pets' parade, pedal car races, scavenger hunts, Mrs Andy Capp and Miss Neighbourhood competitions, wombling campaigns, cardboard-box modelling, knit-and-natter sessions or a fancy dress football match. 'Everything was designed to take place in the streets', said Albert. 'The programme was all very low-key, full of silly things, so that everyone could join in.'

'Take the pets' parade: we had prizes for the wettest-nosed dog, the flattest fish . . . One man came along saying, "Will my entry be acceptable?" He had got a bluebottle carefully tied onto a piece of cotton . . . but you see he had gone to the trouble . . .'

'Co-operation from the police was superb', said Albert gratefully. 'We had to get police permission to close some of the streets to traffic, and of course we had to ask everyone to park their cars up the far end. The police said they would always be there, if needed, and one evening, when some games had been cancelled because it was wet, there was a police car at our door within 15 minutes, asking if we'd

had any trouble and did we need any help.

'We planned the events on alternate days so that if it rained we could postpone them easily. But on the whole we were lucky with the weather and it was far too hot to be indoors. We were forced to put off several indoor games sessions because of the heat.

'Since last summer, several younger ladies have opened their houses for weekly whist drives for the older people, and they have also run regular knit-and-natter sessions, some of them making soft toys for the Christmas bazaar.'

So the involvement has remained long after the shindig was over. There has been a jumble sale, to raise some money, coffee mornings, and a harvest supper. One of the members of the group, Eileen MacDonald, writes of how '60 or 70 elderly people sat down to a goodly spread — all homemade and given by members and friends. And when "all was safely gathered in", the Dudman family entertained everyone with songs to a guitar.'

Next year the Ayresome community plan to hold another shindig, still within their small patch of 15 streets. They can find enough volunteers amongst themselves to be able to run the activities without having to ask for outside help. (Last year, the group did have a long-term volunteer, sponsored by the District.) The District also paid for publicity leaflets, but apart

from this, and the tremendous support and encouragement initially given by Adrian, the group really carried through the neighbourhood scheme on its own. Originally four Toc H members, now nine.

They seem to have discovered the art of spreading themselves thinly . . . not keeping themselves to themselves . . . and of course diving off the deep end with the shindig meant that they simply had to find helpers.

Mind you, of course, as Albert says, his house is continually like King's Cross Station. 'The only way we get a bit of peace is to go out', he admits cheerfully. And he, like many others, does a full day's work — getting down to his correspondence at 6 am.

But Albert and the group have achieved what they set out to do — to bring people together. 'It's all very simple, really', he says. It's just as one Ayresome resident said: 'The great thing is that my husband now talks to the man across the street. We're beginning to feel we're neighbours.'



NEWSPOINT

FRUITS OF INTEGRATION

Roger Goldsmith Kent Weekend Projects Group

If, on the morning of Saturday 8 November, you'd gone into the Gillingham, Kent, branch of Woolworths you would have found a rather distressed salesgirl trying to recover from an onslaught of baskets-full of Christmas decorations, womble soap, and other odds and ends. The reason for this was that the Kent Weekend Project Group was out shopping, helping to complete the final preparations for the Mini Handi dance to be held that evening in a community hall just outside the Medway Towns.

Much work over the preceding weeks and months went into what was acclaimed by all to be a very worthwhile

occasion. About 45 handicapped attended from the surrounding district and nearly 100 volunteers were recruited from local schools to help on the evening. Refreshments and prizes, some of which were donated by local firms, were provided for the 'mini handis' with some excellent music from a local folk group.

Although the dance was centred around a project by the Kent Group, the event was an integrated effort between us and the branches of the Medway and Sheppey District. It was they who did much of the work before the event took place, whilst we provided the volunteer workforce to set up the actual weekend.

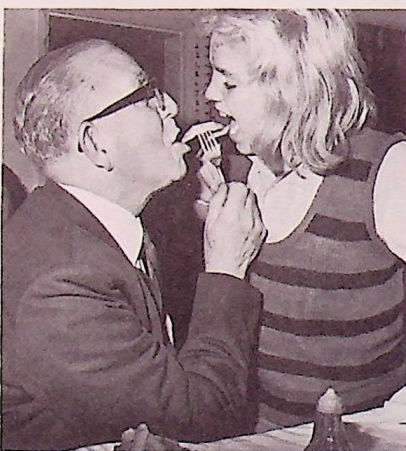
50 YEARS ON

Last year, while Toc H was celebrating its Diamond Jubilee, EC and Tower Hill Women's Branch celebrated its own Golden Jubilee. A special service of rededication was held at All Hallows last October when the address was given by Bishop John Daly.

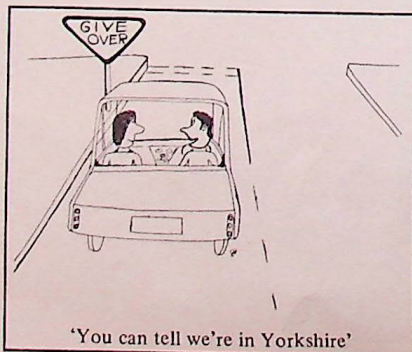
The service was followed by a celebration tea at Talbot House with a splendid 50th birthday cake.

The branch, which was the first Toc H women's branch to be established back in 1925, was able to send a cheque for £50 to Alison House to commemorate the occasion.

Photo: Southend Standard



25 years ago some Toc H members bought the boys of Lifstan in Southchurch, Essex, 15 bob's worth of fish and chips and started a boys club. In November, on their Silver Jubilee, the boys of the now well-established club returned the compliment and invited local Toc H members to a fish and chip supper. Present on both occasions was Alfred Goodale (aged 72) who is pictured sharing a chip with David Brown (aged 12). Said Alfred: 'It's pleasing to see the way the club has prospered.'



HARLOW HANDI-HOP

The 'Harlow Handi-Hop' was a Toc H job — no doubt about that — but it wasn't organised by a branch! Harlow Toc H was still a group when the Mini-Handi dance was organised, although it received its lamp shortly afterwards at the December World Chain of Light vigil in All Hallows.

One of the chief organisers, Netta Blyth, commented: 'I think Harlow people were impressed by what such a small group of people achieved.'

'We invited mentally as well as physically handicapped people to the dance and judging by the thank-you letters I received, they all had a great time.'

More than 50 handicapped people attended, some thanks to publicity in a local newspaper. Local people rallied



round to help, including members' friends, Venture Scouts, schoolchildren, the local PHAB (physically handicapped and able-bodied) club and the St John Ambulance Brigade.

Forty local shops and factories donated raffle prizes and music came from a local band. To complete the evening, Jimmy Savile, originator of the Mini-Handi dances, sent a special message.

A painting by Rolf Harris was also on display, obtained from Rolf by Graham Smith, son of Mr and Mrs I V Smith, two of the St John Ambulance members in attendance. The branch hopes to auction the picture in the near future.

Said Netta: 'If Toc H is fellowship, we've achieved it. We deliberately went into this knowing we couldn't do it all by ourselves, counting on local people to come in with us. We had a great evening, but what's more to the point — we've got lots of "outsiders" involved in Toc H work.'

Photo: Pontin



Lucky winners of a free Pontin's holiday in Torremolinos, Spain: staff member Alan Daniels and his wife Mary. They won their trip by entering a stage show at Pontin's Southport Holiday Village.



Visitors to Scarborough, Yorks, will be able to rest on an oak seat, presented by the Scarborough Branch in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee. The seat is

placed outside the Alma Court Hotel, which is used as a holiday home for the blind, and it is hoped to duplicate the plaque on the seat in braille.

SOUTH YORKS EXPANSION YEAR

Ernest Dransfield

Staff member, Bill Bains, and I had a long and busy day in September finding out the needs of the community in Rotherham, and where we could apply our expansion project from the South Yorkshire District.

Our first call was at Crinoline House, the social services centre, next to the Central Library where permission was granted to display the Marler Hayley in the Kimberworth Park Branch Library for a period of three weeks.

Our further travels during the day covered schools, schools for ESN children, physically handicapped and old-age pensioners' centres. It was while on the Kimberworth Park Estate that we were fortunate to find the mobile library service van delivering books to housebound people. We were told of the difficulty in extending the service, for which there was a great need. A longer visiting time would be appreciated (the old people like to chat a bit), and new faces were always welcome.

As ever, our Richard Jackson, anxious to help, designed leaflets which were quickly to hand, and together with the elephant 'Looking for something different?' sheets, they were distributed to over 400 houses on the estate, with the help of the local Girl Guides, Scouts and Kimberworth Branch members, who provided the transport.

From this raid and a meeting in a school we formed a small group of volunteers, students, housewives and husbands who are willing to do something about it.

With the blessing of the library

officials we were afforded the facilities of the branch library premises for our next meeting when things began to take shape. Our volunteers, who by now had reached 11 in number, were given the names and addresses of housebound people who were using the service and arrangements were made for preliminary visits. The need for identity papers was realised and these are being prepared by the library authorities to be issued in readiness for when the service van is phased out and the volunteers take over.

This happened on 12 January when the van moved to a more populated area in the town. Since our two meetings we have had six adult and four more student volunteers who will be visited and informed of the next meeting.

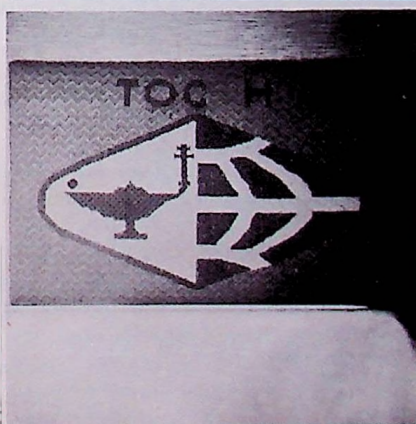


Photo: H H Smith

This fine Toc H kneeler was woven by Ethel Smith for the Addenbrookes Hospital Chapel in Cambridge.

IN BRIEF...

■ A warm welcome to Mike Diggle who has been appointed Area Padre in Yorkshire. Mike was recently Chaplain to Industry for the Bishop of Wakefield and is now Vicar of Kellington parish.

■ Congratulations to Gordon Cox, Padre and Secretary of Kettering Branch, who has recently been appointed a Canon (Non-residentiary) of Peterborough. Gordon has been in Toc H since 1932.

■ Congratulations to John Ulrich, resident of Mark 20, Putney, who has been presented with the Imperial Service Medal after 37 years' service with the engineering staff of the GPO.

■ Dudley Branch, in the West Midlands, presented a much-needed san-chair to the local Guest Hospital as a result of a special fund-raising effort.

■ And still in the West Midlands, Solihull Women's Branch recently enabled the Physically Handicapped Association to purchase a special stretcher and first-aid kit for one of their ambulances.

■ In Birmingham, the Rotary Clubs are now helping Toc H to collect unwanted spectacles which are being sent overseas via the new Toc H Birmingham Centre.

■ To celebrate the Diamond Jubilee some 70 members and friends in the Wessex District held a successful dinner-dance at the Cliff End Hotel, Boscombe, last November.

■ The first Christmas Fayre organised by Bournemouth and Christchurch Joint Branch was a great success and a net profit of £200.30 resulted.

■ The ladies of Grays Branch in Essex were understandably delighted with the profit of £200 raised by their biennial Christmas Gift Shop. £100 was sent to the Family Purse and the rest will be used locally.

■ Alison House is assured of having beech trees in the garden for many years to come. During the CEC weekend there, at the beginning of December, Arthur Frymann, Frank Howlett and John Cutt went out before breakfast and planted three beech saplings.

Success from fun and a giggle



Photo: Heston Gazette

Huw Gibbs

If the jewels in the crown and sceptre represent all corners of our commonwealth then the myriad of light forever sparkling must represent the irrepressible gaiety, courage, and humour of its Londoners, and East Enders in particular. The gravest of problems are swept effortlessly away after the first 'cuppa' and to be foolish enough to insist that something is serious is likely to meet with the contribution 'Gor luv - clock the boatrace'. *

* (Slang: 'look at that face!')

Faced with the century-old problems of inner city life, the Londoner comes through as a practical human being, knowing what has to be done and doing it with a heart of gold, whatever the difficulties. Incidentally, that's a pretty good description of Toc H too, isn't it? Little wonder then that when Toc H decided to open Mark 3 in Hackney there were those who knew what had to be done and that it could only succeed.

In 1966 a survey conducted by Toc H in South Hackney proved that residents wanted something done for their elderly. Prideaux House reacted promptly by establishing a luncheon club for senior citizens. But a 1970 survey, according to Warden John Burgess, 'showed beyond all doubt that local residents' wishes were for

better facilities for their children'. It was in that same year that Gualter de Mello started the first summer holiday play-scheme for local children as an alternative to their 'being idle and loafing around the neighbourhood'. Local residents were quick to help, as were nearby members of Toc H. Toc H West Essex District became responsible for the growing sums of money necessary to finance the scheme. Afterwards some parents were challenged to organise it during the following year and a few accepted.

The following year the scheme was enlarged and included a camp. Since then camps have been held regularly and Toc H centres at Colsterdale and Rhyl have been used. 'Children in London very much need to get away from the grime to discover something of the beauty of other parts of England', John Burgess told me. Gradually more parents took an interest and a tenants' association was formed with a sub-committee taking on the somewhat unwieldy title of Toc H Hackney Youth Development Support Group! But John recalls, 'there were 16 in all who managed to form themselves into a sort of working committee. None of them had any idea about procedures or taking minutes and a lot of the time they fumbled their way through. The minutes were hardly businesslike but a lot of fun and a giggle was enjoyed and just the excuse to come and have an evening out was part of the spirit

of the group.' It was this group that really set the spirit moving towards the new and first youth centre in South Hackney. Some of the parents even trained in pre-school playgroup leadership.

The next stage had to be faced after the summer schemes finished. What was going to happen to the kids then? Inevitably they relapsed into their old ways of gang-ing up on corners, odd acts of vandalism, boredom and disappointment. So during the winter of 1971/72 Prideaux House took the step of organising a youth club - and quickly discovered that it could not cope with the hordes of children who turned up. There would have to be a youth centre.

'So the idea of building a youth centre was first suggested - on a vegetable patch at the back of the house', John recalled. On the planning team was architect and sympathiser Sandy Aikman who drew up an idea of what would fit, and Tommy Tucker, a local policeman. The drawing was approved by the management committee and an approach was made to the Inner London Education Authority. 'The earlier plan was a kind of prefabricated building', John said, 'but kids around here are famous for their window breaking and vandalism so it was clear we would have to have a brick building.'

Then came the first great tragedy. The



Above: the men responsible, (left to right) Angus Lennox (surveyor), Sandy Aikman (architect), Harry Mills (Marks and Properties Adviser), Frank Harding (builder), Martin Greenway (quantity surveyor).

Below: Angus Ogilvy chats to the youth leader, Alison Hutchinson, while Tom Tucker, management committee chairman, looks on.

Photos: Bob Broeder



ILEA turned down this application. 'This was a real slap in the face', John said. But the proposals were re-submitted. The Central Executive, not discouraged, gave a donation of £3,500 and a loan of £10,000. George Liddle, then Honorary Treasurer, handled the second round of negotiations with the ILEA and they eventually promised the balance up to £28,000 building costs.

Building commenced and the search began for a suitable part-time youth leader. By the completion date in September, a leader had been appointed with a lot of experience of working with children in a deprived part of Darlington. 'She proved all right that she knew how to deal with tough kids', said John. She is Alison Hutchinson, a bubbly girl in her twenties. The club to her has been a sort of second home since the appointment. 'It doesn't matter what time of day I open that door', she said, 'you can bet that within minutes one of the kids will come wandering in for a chat.'

The club was officially opened on 3 November by Toc H Vice-Patron The Hon Angus Ogilvy, with 80 local guests and helpers present. Angus took a great interest in all that was going on and clearly demonstrated his intimate knowledge of young people and their interests, no doubt acquired during his service as Chairman of the National Association of Boys' Clubs.

There are over 150 members of the club now, although it has only been open a few months. 'Our future is to expand the club as a focal point for local youth. We have our nursery group in the house and when they go to school they can continue to come to Toc H and they will grow up gradually getting a deeper insight into the Movement. This must inevitably include the mums and dads as well', John believes.

Something of Alison Hutchinson is revealed by glancing around the newly decorated walls of the youth club. Handwritten notices leave no doubt about what she expects; and one 'If you must swear, then do it quietly' might almost have been written by Tubby himself.

Describing how the club is organised she said, 'We have split the age groups here because some are wanting to join at five years old! Parents are more than grateful to Toc H'. When she pointed out a shortage of coat hangers, a parent returned with over two dozen! 'This is the kind of help they are offering me and I think it's fabulous', she said.

The middle age groups present one sort of problem: they have outlived organised games but seem unable to organise themselves. 'After a bit they will reject a game and start running around all over the place. They are still very boisterous and they've got a lot of energy and they are

not into the idea of mixing socially.' The older age group seeks more privacy. 'All they want to do is come in for a coffee and chat and maybe listen to music. Already the senior group has 50 members, some of whom have now left school and are unable to find employment. This can be a real problem in this area', Alison said.

She has some criticism of the building and doesn't feel that it is ideally suited to the kind of activities that are necessary to meet the demands of East London children. But her popularity, involving her in many more hours than she is expected to work, is beginning to indicate that to the youngsters the youth club is indeed the focal point for their social life. She has no intention of spending too much time on advertising the club. 'News about it will get around', she said. 'We've got what they need. In the last two to three weeks we have had about 20 new people join this group.'

Each of the three age groups has two sessions every week, which means a lot of hard work. Alison shrugs this off and explained that she gets her escape in relaxing at home, listening to music and going to the theatre. At the moment she doesn't feel that it would be right to delegate work to more adult helpers. 'After all, the kids come here to get away from parents and restrictions.' But in the meantime 'we have a lot of help from Toc H members even starting Judo classes and football sections. And there are always one or two who come across from Prideaux House to give a hand'.

One of the most pressing needs in the club at the moment is for games of any description. If you have a game or if you want to send a donation to buy a record, send it to The Warden, Toc H Mark 3, 10 Church Crescent, Hackney E9 (made payable to 'Hackney Youth Centre'). 'We've got practically no music in the club and even snakes and ladders will go down well here', said John.

Eventually the club will become more of a community centre and activities will be widened to involve more parents. Alison is confident that some will also want to come and talk about neighbourhood problems. She said, 'there are a lot of parents around here with 16-year-old kids who have no jobs and appear to have no prospects either. But first we will use the club socially; later we can talk about unemployment or inflation, or the fun and giggles you can get from helping others'.

As I was leaving, I saw a parent and asked her about the club. Her spontaneous response is its own kind of tribute: 'Not just a club — it's my right hand — ain't it?'

PRAYER OF ST FRANCIS

John Forbes begins a new four-part series on the prayer of St Francis of Assisi.

A reading of Alan Paton's book *Instrument of Thy Peace* has led me to want to share his insight into the beautiful and moving prayer which many of us use in the alternative form of the Ceremony of Light, and has confirmed my belief that a closer look at the prayer can reveal spiritual values which may make it a pattern for life.

We pray for many things, and for many people, sick, suffering, dying; for health, success, and for the peace of the world. We pray for forgiveness; we pray especially hard, most of us, when our own safety or security is threatened. The prayer of St Francis gives us a majestic conception of what the work of a disciple should be:

Lord

*make me an instrument of Thy Peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
Where there is sadness, joy.*

The prayer of St Francis of Assisi is one of the most wonderful prayers ever addressed to God. Its structure is utterly fascinating, and it is one of those prayers which is not weakened by repetition; with greater familiarity, the stronger grows its texture. There is a constant interweaving of many-coloured threads to form a glorious, cohesive pattern, as I hope we shall see.

But beyond this, and uniquely compelling, is the realisation of the working of the Spirit within, as each petition is made. There are many examples in the recorded life of St Francis which illustrate the inevitable conflict between man as a citizen and as a Christian, and the prayer is from one who solved that conflict by a resolute turning away from the accepted values of society towards the Kingdom of God.

A great duty falls upon us, to be instruments of God's will. Dag Hammarskjöld once said to himself (on the eve of a meeting of the United Nations Security Council): 'Your responsibility is indeed

terrifying. If you fail, it is God, thanks to your having betrayed Him, who will fail mankind. You fancy you can be responsible to God; can you carry the responsibility for God?'

No one is too weak, or too unimportant, to be God's instrument. In the book of Exodus we read that when Moses felt that he was unequal to the task he was given (he was, he said, uneloquent and slow of speech) God's reply was: 'Who hath made man's mouth? Or who maketh the dumb? Have not I, the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.'

No Christian should ever think or say that he is not fit to be God's instrument, for that in fact is what it means to be a Christian. We may be humble about many things, but we may never decline to be used.

'You did not choose Me, but I have chosen you', said Jesus to the men who had become his closest friends. To change from pride that we have chosen Jesus, to gratitude that He has chosen us is part of a genuine conversion. It is the change from thinking of ourselves as 'do-gooders' to offering ourselves to be instruments of His peace. (Bob Knight — Birthday Vigil of Toc H).

The gospel is full of reassurances, some of them startling. You are salt to the world! You are light to all the world! Even the hairs of your head have all been counted! Exciting words to those who heard them; things might be dark, but they were to be the light of the world!

If I pray that I may be His instrument, then I must accept that I am the reed through which will breathe the breath of God; that, when it sounds, it will be the music of the Spirit, and it will be in harmony with our own times.

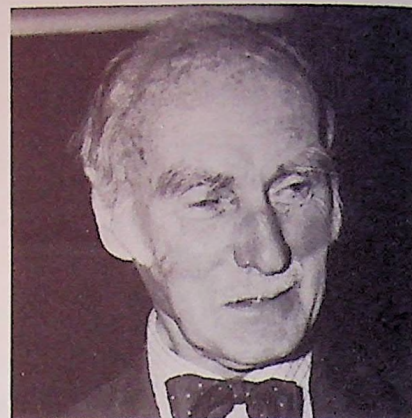
Alan Paton, in *Instrument of Thy Peace*, reminds us of two things we must do. The first is never to doubt that God can use us if we are willing to be used, no matter what our weaknesses. The second is to see that God can use any other person who is willing to be used, whatever his weaknesses, and if need be, to assure him of this truth.

O Lord, open my eyes that I may see the need of others, open my ears to their cries, open my heart so that they need not be without succour, let me be not afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong, nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich. Show me where love and hope and faith are needed, and use me to bring them to those places.

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy Peace.

OBITUARY

Brian Dickson



Brian Dickson, a known and loved figure in Toc H, not only in the Thames Valley where he had lived all his life but over a much wider area, died on 9 December in Hammersmith Hospital after a short illness. He was 80 years old.

He was a Vice-President of Toc H and had been an active member for most of his life, and was a close friend of Pat Leonard, Barclay Baron and other early leaders of Toc H. His lovely cottage at Pinkney's Green, near Maidenhead, has been almost open house to his very many Toc H friends and the scene of innumerable Toc H weekend parties. He was a unique character, the essence of which it is impossible to capture in words. His delicious humour, his deep Christian convictions, his joy in the countless friendships he had made in Toc H and in the neighbourhood of his home, and his utterly untiring service to the old and lonely within reach of his bicycle will long be remembered with gratitude and affection.

His working life had been spent with Unilever and he had carried his Toc H to Unilever House where he founded the Unilever Boys' Club for junior employees, as well as a weekly service — 'Wednesday at One-Fifteen' — which was widely supported within the firm. Since his retirement he had devoted himself unsparingly to service of a variety of kinds in the Thames Valley and for a number of years was honorary head of the Maidenhead Citizens' Advice Bureau. He was active in the life of his church at Stubbings, where he started and for a long time conducted a children's service as unusual in character as he was himself.

To Brian Toc H had become a way of life which was as natural as breathing. He will be missed but not soon forgotten.

Alec Churcher

MARKS

Future policy on Marks was discussed very fully at the CEC meeting on 6 and 7 December 1975. Harry Mills, Marks and Properties Adviser, reports on the Executive's conclusions.

The November issue of *Point Three* summarised the Interim and Final Reports of the Marks Working Party.

Comments on the reports were received from management committees and these were circulated to all members of the CEC together with the recommendations from the Marks Conference which had been accepted by the CEC on 19 June 1973.

At their December meeting, the Executive accepted these comments sympathetically.

No subsidised accommodation

The Executive accepted the recommendation that the Movement should not be expected to provide subsidised accommodation creating a deficit in the Marks accounts. This was very much in line with the accepted policy outlined in the Marks Conference Report.

Having said that, in the light of the half-year accounts, the Executive expressed its appreciation of the reversal of the situation from last year as most Marks are now showing an income greater than expenditure.

The Finance Committee had already noted this improvement. The minutes of their meeting held on 19 November 1975 included the following statement:

'The result for the period shows a great improvement over previous years. The overall deficit being £520, compared with £4,889 for the same period last year, and £3,487 at 30 September 1973. When allowance is made for Mark V and Mark VI deficits due to the running down before closing, the Marks overall show a surplus of £460. The Committee expressed their grateful thanks to the Management Committees (including the Marks and Properties Adviser) and Marksmen for their efforts in achieving these results.'

Community Work

On the question of the commitment of Marksmen to serve the community around the Mark, it was agreed that as a Mark should consider itself as much an expression of Toc H as any efficient branch, it must see service as important

as fellowship and not consider it an 'optional extra' — as stated in the Working Party Report.

However it was agreed that when a potential Marksman was interviewed by the warden, he must be given an explanation of the internal and external activities of the house — but it need not be made a condition of entry that he accepts immediate involvement in the work.

It was felt that men and women new to a Mark must be given time to grow in fellowship which, in itself, should foster a desire to take part in the house and in the surrounding community. If time shows that a particular individual has no desire to make a contribution to the life of the house he should rightly be asked to seek alternative accommodation. The Report calls for closer links between the house and social service organisations, local churches, community groups and with other expressions of Toc H.

Staff help

This was accepted as being a 'way in' to service to the community but with the rider that some staff and/or active local Toc H help is essential to enable the house to locate and establish these links. This applies particularly where the warden acts in an honorary capacity and the management committee comprises, as is often the case, men and women who live some distance from the Mark.

Management: combined effort

There was general agreement that the management of a Mark should be, as suggested in the Final Report, a combined effort between the residents and management committee.

By involving residents more in the practical running of the house they will learn more about Toc H, and be a party to policy decisions taken by the committee.

Some management committees expressed doubts about the ability of Marksmen to accept responsibility for budgeting, fixing economic rents, recommending economies etc but thought that the solution would be to implement the suggestion made in the Marks Final Report: that instead of having a two-committee structure, the management committee and Marksmen should act together as one committee. This committee could then combine its members' specialist 'know-how' on administration and finance with the interests of the residents living in the house.

Some of the management committees are already moving towards this way of working.

Mark meetings

Early in 1975 the CEC agreed that a residential weekend meeting for Marks wardens and chairmen of management committees be arranged so that there could be a general exchange of views. This meeting was postponed (because the Marks Working Party was established), but will now take place as soon as possible in 1976.

It was also agreed that in the autumn of 1976 the chairman of management committees should meet the Director and other members of the staff to report progress and exchange ideas.

Five years of office

The question of compulsory retirement of officers after five years was raised. It was agreed that whereas change is good for a committee this need not apply necessarily to specialist advisers such as architects, accountants and surveyors who could be difficult to replace.

'Guidelines'

Obviously in submitting this report, representing the conclusions reached by the Central Executive Committee at its December meeting, it is not possible to consolidate into one statement the views of the committee on the Marks Conference Report which contained 46 separate paragraphs, the Interim Report with four recommendations and the Final Report, which included some guidelines for Marks with 29 paragraphs.

It is the hope of the Executive that these documents will be treated as guidelines and not as rules, so that the dialogue which stopped soon after the issue of the Marks Conference Report and started again recently should continue, so that Marks can be made more efficient and can be seen by the membership as valid expressions of Toc H, able and willing to make a real contribution to the future of the Movement.

After all, we all seek young blood to 'strengthen the good thing thus begun'. By careful selection of new and effective leadership, with management committees and staff working together, have we not a great opportunity before us to do just this?

Everywhere there is much to be done — with the help of the young men and women, who may meet Toc H for the first time in a Mark, we are assured of a future for this Movement.

Let us not forsake the trust put in us by ensuring that our Toc H Marks, which house a great mixture of men, are places where the Marksmen learn to 'live together in love and joy and peace'.

LETTERS

The November editorial on 'Consequences of Compassion' provoked a stream of letters. A representative sample is reprinted here: the editor leaves readers to draw their own conclusions.

So the solution to worker/manager hostility is Worker Participation — with quotes from Marx, *The Guardian*, etc to support it.

By all means let worker participation be introduced where some foundations, such as the following, seem to exist:

- (a) that there is a genuine desire to participate constructively
- (b) that a sense of responsibility for the workers, the plant and the customers seems to prevail among those destined to participate
- (c) that the need for a basic knowledge of management and economics is accepted by the participants.

But are these not some of the attributes management is constantly seeking in choosing men for promotion to management grades? Indeed the process of promoting from 'worker' grades to lower, and eventually upper, management grades has been going on for so many years that one wonders whether worker participation is not an old idea dished up as a New Day panacea.

In the current atmosphere of wage demands unrelated to the market's ability to pay and demands for a level of employment unrelated to demand for a product or service — all backed by actual or threatened force — the prospects for worker participation are, to say the least, not good. In a plant where upwards of 20 unions represent the work force the prospects may seem hopeless.

'The world's need to find new relationships' is indeed urgent and that is going to mean the shedding of many outmoded attitudes as between Them and Us. There was some sign of acceptance of this in the hand-out from the November Chequers meeting; but attitudes do not change overnight and certainly not as the result of a political pronouncement such as worker participation. It is there now if we care to recognise that we must be in this business of living together — peaceably.

Edwin Atkin
Lymington, Hants

May I congratulate you on your leading article 'Consequences of compassion' in the November *Point Three*. I think you have hit the nail bang on the head! No doubt like me many others have often thought along the same lines.

It may be that we in Toc H have a greater role to play in the endeavours to find solutions to these and many other social problems with which we are confronted than that of merely fund-raising for charity (important though this may be).

Len Prentis
Ruislip Manor, Middlesex

It is wrong to link rivalry with suspicion because they do not necessarily exist side by side and it is a sweeping distortion of fact to claim that there is 'general hostility' between management and worker. What does exist is destructive and sometimes violent agitation by small groups of people motivated more by envy than by any deeply thought out personal philosophy for improving the lot of the working man. A viewpoint strongly supported by the fact that many trade unionists are joining the Movement for Industrial Democracy which is pledged to maintain freedom and dignity and is opposed to the erosion of liberty in union affairs. You seem to forget in your article that middle management, the eternal butt for derision and insult, also has its rights and consists of men and women who are as proud of their contribution as any 'craftsman'. If the workers you describe are so keen to take their place in the boardroom then let them invest in the company and allow management personnel to sit in on their union meetings!

You cannot eliminate competition entirely because it is natural in every human being and thank God for it. This is not what Ken Prideaux-Brune was saying at all. You can only work towards a state in which a greater degree of self-discipline in competition results in less destruction of individuals and opposing groups.

You must choose between the statement that the 'population is now sufficiently educated' or Helmut Schmidt's shrewder observation that the trade unions must 'behave and abstain from idiotic policies'. The latter clearly points to the reality of a sad lack of ability on the part of working people who take no part in union affairs and seem disinterested in what is happening in their unions. Does it not also reveal something of the ruthless competition of some union barons whose grasp of their members' aspirations never rises beyond improving their own income and status?

What bothers me, and a lot of other people too, is this relentless drive towards another class struggle — something unseen in this country for 30 years — blindly encouraged by a few over-rated sociologists and educationalists. Next to library-captive theologians they have spawned more useless theories and miscalculations than any management team!

You cannot dismiss class with the stroke of the pen because people rightly expect reward for great effort or superior skill. Fabians have missed this point entirely and wonder why their efforts are constantly frustrated. The trade unionists and planning departments fixing pro-

duction quotas at Volvo are simply supervisors in place of managers and, given time, will expect to be treated as the leaders they undoubtedly are. In exactly the same way as trade unionists will strike to preserve differential wage structures, quite contrary to the mouthed platitudes about brotherhood and equality. I'm not knocking it. I respect it because I know where I am. I only wish they could be more honest with themselves.

A growing number of people are concerned about the move towards political and social extremes. It is a dangerous state of affairs and the task of Toc H is to hold firmly on to the reins of reason and reform by example, before they are dashed away by fatuous revolutionaries.

I suspect that most people in Toc H will agree with me that you 'can't all drive the tram' and their working lives have been spent in a spirit of competition which has been enjoyed as one of life's experiences. Some of us deplore the present headlong rush into a socialist Utopia which carries no guarantee that it will not end with the same horror and despair of other, so called, democratic people's republics. This being the case your editorial is well wide of the mark in reflecting the views of people in this Movement.

Huw Gibbs
Aylesbury, Bucks

It's not necessarily meant to reflect the views of people in this Movement . . . it's meant to stimulate them to think! Ed.

I hesitate to introduce a carping note about the editorials in the October and November issues of *Point Three* but I feel that principles are at stake which require airing.

I most strongly deprecate the use of the editorial chair to write leading articles of a political nature in a magazine such as ours, particularly as these are thinly disguised under the cover of personal actions. In my opinion both these articles could have appeared in *New Statesman* or *Tribune* without much change in content. Furthermore they contain several mis-statements of fact which could be refuted.

Our Movement has always been non-political and I pray that it will remain so. I do not expect to open *Point Three* and find Karl Marx quoted at me. Perhaps therefore you will allow the balance to be redressed at an early date in the future.

John Morgan
Ruislip, Middlesex



Your editorial in the November issue of *Point Three* was most timely. No doubt it will call forth protests from those who cry 'politics' and then proceed to the political game of union-bashing. The fact is we are called upon 'to find our own convictions, to influence the formation of public opinion'. How you do that and exclude politics, I have yet to discover.

If we make any progress towards industrial democracy, it will be as a result of a political decision. It is already a requirement of the provisions of the Treaty of Rome. But industrial democracy implies something more radical than men's representatives sitting on boards of directors: the old paternalistic game of turning poachers into game-keepers. It will call for fundamental changes in attitudes in British industry. Traditionally it has operated a policy of cheap food, cheap labour and minimum investment, and its labour policies have often been those of a mine manager who said to me recently, 'I want to be able to say to a man "get your cards and get off up the pit lane"'.

It means converting some of our industrial museums into modern industrial enterprises. It means communicating with the shop-floor, not just about absenteeism, productivity and non-conformance; but about plans, investment and balance-sheets. It means a new approach to industrial relations — not the old 'man-management' which is essentially manipulative; not the two old alternatives of domination or compromise, but the way of integration whereby the demands of each side can be transcended into the needs of the whole. This will involve promoting among all people 'a wide human interest in the lives and needs of their fellows'.

Of course unions have acted selfishly, but they have some good mentors. An inflation started by government artificially manipulating interest rates to attract foreign capital was fed by the property speculators, and conveniently damned when it emerged at the bottom of the heap as 'wage inflation'. If an entrepreneur makes a windfall it is enterprise, if a labourer does likewise it is greed.

Changing attitudes is a slow laborious business, but the kind of society we live in is created by the decisions we take. Before we face these decisions I think we must ask ourselves certain questions:

To what extent am I prepared to become involved in the complex web of modern society?

What is the meaning for me of my daily work?

What is my attitude to other people?

What are my aims in life?

It is the nature of our response to these choices which creates the nature of our modern industrial society. F R Leavis has said, in a now notorious lecture, 'The advance of science and technology means a human future of change so rapid, of tests and challenges so unprecedented that . . . what we need is a power of creative response . . . to these new challenges'.

Rev John Gingell

Industrial Adviser to the Bishop of Derby

I trust that Toc H will be giving full support to Dr Coggan's national appeal and feel that we should all be praying for guidance in our present spiritual and economic crisis. Might I suggest that this vitally important matter should be pondered over deeply at the World Chain of Light vigils? * Perhaps special prayers could be said on this occasion and also at branch meetings.

Toc H should put forward its aims and objects as a practical way of dealing with our nation's many serious problems. It is important that all members should set a personal example in working for a caring and more compassionate society, as illustrated in your November editorial 'Consequences of compassion'.

I have already written to Dr Coggan and quote this paragraph from my letter, regarding Toc H: 'As a Toc H member of over 40 years standing and a great admirer of our founder Padre, Tubby Clayton, I feel that our great Movement has much to offer to Christian life in stressing the importance of human relationships and as a unifying force between all the Churches'.

There is no doubt that there is an urgent need today for a spirit of reconciliation between God and man, and in society between man and man.

Finally, I suggest that 1976 might be chosen by Toc H as the year for a Crusade for a National Moral and Spiritual Revival.

Rodney Hogben

Haywards Heath, Sussex

* *The World Chain of Light vigil 1975 is now, of course, long past — but the point could well be noted for other vigils this year.* Ed.

POUNDING AHEAD

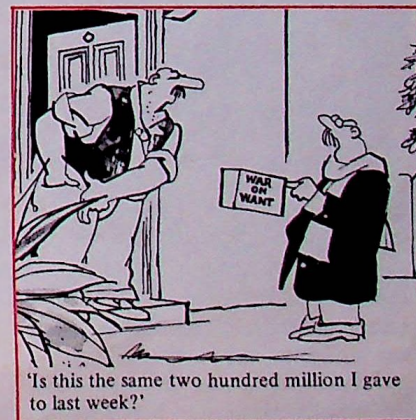
Two superb pieces of news this month and a great encouragement to our efforts: Don Lockhart is home having reached 18,860 feet in the Himalayas (more news later) and the Ministry of Overseas Development has decided to recognise what Toc H is doing to provide a well and health centre at Pannikampatti in South India and has agreed to match £1 for £1 the money we send for the project, up to a limit of £1,500.

Don Lockhart on his 300-mile trek in the Himalayas sent a telegram that he had reached almost 19,000 feet; that is well over 3 miles up. He started from 4,000 feet but the party had to descend nearly 2,000 feet to reach their chosen route. To make it easy for his many sponsors, we have agreed to use the round figure of 15,000 feet or 30 times 500 feet. Would his sponsors therefore work out their own sums — 30 x whatever amount they agreed per 500 feet, then send it in the most convenient way to Wendover, clearly marked 'Himalayan Trek'. Don certainly pounded ahead.

Please go on, pounding away on that 6,000 mile journey.

Amounts received include £226 from the Bingham Branches from a ploughman's supper and a garden party; £227.19 from a garden party run by Dalton-in-Furness; Peterborough and Stamford District has sent in £288.05 so far of their target of £350. These splendid results must not discourage other smaller efforts which, with the many £5 mile collections coming in, make up the bulk of the amount raised.

Late news: Broadwater Women's Branch collected new half-pennies in jam-jars. When the half-pennies were being counted, a half-sovereign was discovered which a local dealer bought for £24. Their £33 was a golden effort indeed!



Punch

NEWSPOINT

POWER TO OUR ELBOW

It was good to make contact again with Bishop John Daly who has recently spent three months at All Hallows, standing in for the Vicar while he was away in North America. Members and staff on The Hill appreciated his friendliness. John was Tubby's ADC at All Hallows in 1925; ten years later he came back to the church to be consecrated as the first Bishop of Gambia and the Rio Pongas.

Here is a short extract from John's letter in the December All Hallows Bulletin (with thanks for the permission to reprint):

'Fifty years ago it was Toc H which led me to All Hallows and now I find that All Hallows is leading me back to Toc H. This has surprised me, for I had come to think that Toc H had outlived its usefulness and I gathered that, since its headquarters had moved from The Hill, Toc H had abandoned All Hallows. On the contrary I have found

that Toc H still has the power, through fellowship and service, to draw men and women into the service of Christ, and I have seen abundant evidence that All Hallows is still lovingly linked to the Movement.

'I wonder if it is realised how greatly Toc H has influenced the Church in its mission. I am not referring to the thousands of men and women who have been led from 'churchianity' into action and joyful Christianity, nor the hundreds who have entered the ordained ministry through Toc H; I am thinking of the Four Points of the Compass.

'Looking back over my own ministry both in the UK and overseas I can see how those four points have guided me. When wrestling with the question at All Hallows, 'where do we go from here?', I strongly urge a study of the basic principles of Toc H.'

JUBILEE JOLLITIES

Ted Curry Point Three correspondent

Members from the Northants District rallied at Rushden to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee and more than 150 attended a special Thanksgiving Service at Rushden Park Road Baptist Church.

The Rev Crispin White, Mid-Eastern Regional Padre and a newcomer

to the Region spoke of the aims of the Movement and its effect on community life. Afterwards members sat down to refreshments and watched the new slide/tape programme recently made for Toc H by Graham Sergeant.



Photo: Terry Taylor

Llandudno Branch Diamond Jubilee fair was opened by Mrs Edith Griffiths, chairman of the Standing Conference of Women's Organisations. Here a bouquet is

presented by Toc H member Anne Hughes, while branch chairman, Alice Elton, looks on. The fair raised about £70 in aid of emergency alarm systems for the elderly.

ROYAL VISIT

Princess Alexandra and the Duchess of Devonshire honoured Bakewell Branch, Derbyshire, with their presence at the branch rededication service at Edensor Parish Church, in December.

Edensor village is on the Chatsworth Estate, the home of the Devonshires, with whom Bakewell Branch has longstanding associations. The visit, however, was a surprise to the branch.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mrs Jennie Morris, a builder attached to Oswestry Women's Branch, Salop, celebrated her 100th birthday last October. Mrs Morris is confined to bed and is a patient in the Greenfields Watson Geriatric unit at the Oswestry and District Hospital where a special party was held for her and was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of the town. She received a telegram from the Queen and the branch has made her a life builder-member.

UXBRIDGE NEWS

Uxbridge combines its Annual Rededication Service with the World Chain of Light. Each year the event is held in a different church in the area, and this year, for the first time, the service was held in the new Citadel of the Salvation Army.

A stag party for 30 housebound of Hillingdon Borough was also held by the branch. Bangers and mash, cheese and biscuits with Guinness went down well. Hayes Variety Club put on after-supper entertainment which brought back the days of the old Music Hall. 'When's the next?' was heard on all sides.

RUN FOR IT

More news reaches us of the West Midlands and South Wales Sponsored Walk: it has now raised £500! This fantastic sum has been earned by only 15 people, some of whom were in the sixties. The walk was against the clock — ie how far you could get in six hours — and the distances covered ranged from five to 26½ miles. The record mileage was achieved by Ged Bates who ran most of the way, averaging over 4 mph.

SHARE OUT

Ilminster Carnival, Somerset, raised a record profit in 1975 and decided to give £1000 to various local charities. Toc H was able to benefit from this Carnival fund and received £125 for their Christmas Dinner for the elderly. So watch out, branches, for your local carnival funds.

RECORDS

50 years of Religious Broadcasting
(BBC 184)

I started to listen with nostalgia and dipped into history. The BBC has put together 39 mini-tracks from their archives. The items listed contain a kaleidoscope of historic milestones and personalities.

After an opening of choral music from the 1973 wedding of Princess Anne, the then Rector of Whitechapel is heard calling on 2LO making the first religious broadcast in 1922. Dick Sheppard of St Martins follows with the first outside broadcast service. Many other personalities are snatched from the past including our own Tubby, King George VI, CS Lewis and Dr Lesley Weatherhead who can teach broadcasters a few tips.

It is interesting to hear the assumed authority of pre-war archbishops, the zeal of Billy Graham, Donald Soper on Tower Hill, the late Cardinal Heenan and the fatherly Lord Ramsey. Many denominations are represented and Toc H can claim at least seven ambassadors.

Drama is added by carols from the Eighth Army and a first service from the liberated Belsen concentration camp. I recommend this historic record, released last November, price £1.79.

Rev Brian Blade

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In October: Phyllis G Owen (Oswestry)
In November: Winifred E Farrance (Milford on Sea), Frederick E Luckman (Aston Manor), Ivy E Muddle (West Worthing), Col Joseph C Piggott, Elsie M Simmons (Brighton), Frank H Vickery (Pocklington Court), Richard W Wilson (Hythe), Martin C H Witcomb (Bexhill on Sea)

In December: Brian T Dickson (Chiltern Vale District), Robert W Ware (Palace Green)

We give thanks for their lives.

OVERTONES

A recent speaker at the Thornton Cleveleys Branch (Lancs) meeting, in the lower room at a lecture hall, had to contend with a band concert going on above. Undaunted, he managed to hold his audience as he rendered his talk entitled 'Unsettled Conditions'.

WELCOME

Edgar Wallace



Photo: Crawley & District Observer

Edgar Wallace, who joined the staff on 1 January, is a larger-than-life character, both physically – he's built like the second row forward he once was – and in personality. For the past 10 years he has been an industrial chaplain in Crawley, and has been padre to Crawley Branch throughout that time. As a result of his work there he was invited to become a member of the New Towns Commission. He thus brings valuable experience to his new work with Toc H, and although his primary concern will be with the development of Toc H in North Sussex and Surrey he will have a contribution to make on a wider scale. He's a man around whom things happen and life with Edgar as a member of staff will undoubtedly be exciting. Already plans for a kind of mini-Mark in Crawley are taking shape. We offer him a very warm welcome.

The following branches elected new members during December:

- 6 – West Wales District
- 4 – Mold (w)
- 3 – Bingham (w), Springfield District
- 2 – Bingham (m), Eastfield (j) Group, Edinburgh Seventy Five (j), Ipswich (w), Kennington, London (m)
- 1 – Bromley (w), Central Overseas, Great Harwood (m), Harpenden (j), Huddersfield (j), Llandudno Central (w), Lymington (j), Mark 7 (m), Medway & Sheppey District, North Nottingham (j), Owton Manor (w), Paisley (w), Pocklington Court (j), Shirehampton (w), Shooters Hill District, Stockport (m), Tavistock (m), Thanet District, Tunbridge Wells (m), Wem (j), Westminster (j), Wigmore (w)

Welcome to 48 new members.

FUNDS FOR FUN

Each year Hereford Branch runs a shop for one week to raise funds for the District holiday chalet at Claruch Bay. This has proved a real money-spinner in the past and has brought in as much as £400 by the sale of new stock donated by local traders, home-made goods, garden produce and second-hand goods.

The chalet was purchased by the Marches District four years ago and each branch in the District is allocated three weeks per year and is responsible for nominating a deserving family who might need a holiday. The funds are used to help pay the ground rent on the chalet.

BOG'S BUS

The Birmingham Outward Group is busy raising funds for a new minibus for its work. Some of the boys who have taken part in BOG activities did a sponsored walk recently and raised £100 towards the bus fund. Last year BOG was given the proceeds of North Worcs District's annual street collection, which totalled £120! Who said Toc H had lost its appeal?

BOG has also been given £60 by Walsall Branch, raised from a wine and cheese party, and £250 from a local Birmingham brewery. The Group needs £2,000 to cover the new bus and running costs.

NONE SO BLIND

There's a saying that there are none so blind

*As those who will not see
And may I be the first to say
This once applied to me.*

*I never thought of others
If a penny I could make;
I never had much time to give
But always time to take.*

*Then by chance, I joined Toc H
Which has done so much for me;
But the thing that I'm most grateful for,
It taught me how to see.*

*To see the needs of my fellow man,
The old, the sick, lonely and bored.
I devote a little time to others now
And time is something I can well afford.*

*If you join Toc H you won't get a medal,
It won't bring you fortune or fame,
But one thing I can guarantee,
You'll learn how to play the game.*

Rene Richardson
Middlesbrough, Cleveland

**YOU WILL BE
SEEING A LOT
OF THIS**

VACANCIES



There is a place waiting to be filled by you on one of the activities organised by Toc H this year. Circumstances prevent many people from enjoying a holiday because of handicap or poverty. Every year Toc H attracts volunteers who want to give some of their holiday time to help other people. Volunteer groups are made up of people who are prepared to discover something about modern society and to risk meeting you in the process. Don't be washed up on the beach again, send for our FREE booklet and help to give someone else a break.

Activities this year will include:

- Playschemes and camps
- Holidays with the elderly and physically handicapped
- Community work abroad
- Decorating
- Also discovery holidays and nature conservation.

Send for your **FREE COPY of the Toc H Activities Booklet** available from:

TOC H Activities Booklet,
1 Forest Close
Wendover
Aylesbury
Bucks HP22 6BT

This is the 1976 national activities poster which will be circulated all over Britain to attract volunteers for summer activities. You will get copies through your own regional office and this is to remind you to find the best possible sites. Think imaginatively about who will benefit from seeing this poster. Don't confine it to your branch room and the nearest school. Take it along to the rates office, the social security department, the local surgery, a garage, a factory, your own business, a railway station, a youth club and a dozen other places. Summer activities are one way of introducing a new generation to Toc H. It is their right to know about us. Don't fail them.

SMALL ADS

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the first of the month. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p) to *Point Three* magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks. Telephone: 0296 623911.



Bruges, Belgium. Hotel Jacobs (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and-of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel. Quiet situation. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, Hotel Jacobs, Baliestraat 1, Bruges 8000. Telephone: (050) 398 31/32.

Wanted: a long-haired miniature dachshund puppy dog for friend of Bob Mills. Will pay transportation. Good home assured - all mod cons, even colour TV. (01 654 2276).

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.

Book now for a holiday at Warden Manor, historic manor house set in unspoilt country, near sea. Happy Toc H fellowship. Open 3 July - 11 September. £17.20 weekly (children £14 + VAT, includes full board, four meals daily). All games (tennis, table tennis, putting etc) and entertainments are free. Contact John Cole at his home address, 4a Berridge Road, Sheerness, Kent.

Used postage stamps needed to purchase and train a guide dog for the blind. Please send to: Michael Pickwick, International Friendship League, Manchester Branch, 4 Ashdale Drive, Heald Green, Cheshire SK8 3SX.